# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

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### 7. Description

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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hannibal Central Business District Multiple Resource nomination consists of two districts and twelve additional scattered sites encompassing in all 74 individual structures. All these are concentrated in an area bounded on the north by Bird St. and the Mark Twain Historic District, on the west by Fourth Street and the Central Park Historic District, on the south by Lyon Street, and on the east by Front Street and the Mississippi River. Parts of thirteen city blocks are included. For purposes of this nomination, buildings have been assigned identifying numbers, which are used consistently throughout the nomination. The 32 photographs are referenced to the descriptions in Section 7 of the two districts and 12 individual descriptions.

Hannibal's Central Business District pivots around the intersection of Main Street and Broadway and extends four blocks north and three blocks south on Main Street. The 300 and 400 blocks of North Main are encompassed in the Mark Twain Historic District, a locally designated district, most of which is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 200 block of North Main Street (city blocks 6 and 11) is protected by a local ordinance creating the Moses Bates Historic District.

West of Third Street, development is primarily residential except along Broadway where retail and office buildings continue as far as Ninth Street. The Central Park Historic District listed in the National Register October 7, 1982 encompasses most of this area, and particularly the commercial buildings on Broadway from the middle of the 300 block to the corner of Seventh Street. To the south the business district is bounded by Bear Creek, which flows into the Mississippi just beyond the South Main Street bridge.

Buildings in the Central Business District are two or three stories high, the exceptions being the four-story Mark Twain Hotel (#69) and the district's one "skyscraper," the six-story former Hannibal Trust Company (#37). Buildings within the average CBD that have been omitted from the nomination are too recent or have been so altered, typically by reconstruction of the storefront elevation, that they have been deemed to have lost their historical integrity. Aside from such buildings, the business district has many parking lots, particularly along Front Street.

Hannibal is subject to flooding by the Mississippi River, and the relatively flat topography of much of the downtown makesit particularly vulnerable. Main Street rises gradually from south to north, while Broadway and the east-west streets north of it rise more noticeably to the west of Main. The lowest part of the district is South Main Street and the area adjacent to Bear Creek. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers currently proposes a levee parallel Front Street, a structure which would enclose most of the buildings herein nominated except the Hafner Warehouse (#68), but would remove the Digel Block (#72) and would also obscure, at least in part, views of the river from the other buildings. Agreement is widespread that some flood protection measures must be taken before substantial new investment will occur downtown. To promote this the city has developed a downtown development program to take advantage of state tax credits for approved community projects.

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### 8. Significance

	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art _X commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architectur   law   x_ literature   military   music   philosophy   politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1852-1931	Builder/Architect vari	ous	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The buildings of the Hannibal Central Business District Multiple Resource Nomination are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under two criteria. Under Criterion A, they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, namely the commercial development of Hannibal into the largest city in northeast Missouri. Under Criterion C, these buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of several styles of architecture, ranging from the Greek Revival to Art Deco, and they are good examples of several building types -- primarily commercial storefronts, but also banks, warehouses, and even a raised cottage. While these buildings have been subject to alterations typical of business districts over time, several of them have survived with an unusual degree of physical integrity. A few buildings in the nomination are associated with Hannibal's most famous son, Mark Twain, while one is associated with another significant Hannibal figure, William Henry Hatch.

Hannibal was founded about 1819 by Moses Bates, but it did not grow appreciably until after it was replatted in  $1836.^2$  Initially the hub of business activity was at Main and Hill Streets, now the center of the Mark Twain Historic District. Young Sam Clemens lived on Hill Street and witnessed this activity until his departure from Hannibal in 1853. By then commercial buildings were spreading south on Main Street, and this movement accelerated until the end of the decade, partly pushed by the expanding economy and partly pulled by the locational advantages of Broadway. Hannibal is set in a bowl of hills; before the advent of modern roadbuilding techniques it was nearly isolated except from the river. Access to it by land was limited to poor roads paralleling the river and overland routes to Palmyra, the Marion County Seat to the northwest, and to New London, the Ralls County Seat to the southwest. In Mark Twain's day the Palmyra Road was the most important, although it was hilly. entered the business district from the north, by way of modern Mark Twain Avenue. In 1852 the Hannibal and New London Plank Road and Bridge Company was formed, and its route, leaving Hannibal by way of Broadway and Market Avenue, paralleled Bear Creek and was nearly flat. The success of this road was apparent in the very rapid development of Broadway in the 1860's. The opening of South Main Street after the war further smifted the center of business. Although it had been part of the initial plat of Hannibal, South Main had been barred to development by meanders in the bed of Bear Creek, extending into the intersection of Broadway itself. This had been the location of Sam Clemens's swimming hole. Part of this swamp survived on Church Street east of Main as late as 1885, but most of it was filled in by the end of the war. location of the Union Depot at Main and Lyon in 1879 reinforced the development of South Main as part of the business district. The trolley line which began operation in 1878 ran down Broadway and both directions on Main. By the turn of the century, when Hannibal began staging fall street festivals, it was taken for granted that the focus of activities would be the intersection of Main and Broadway.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Bits of Hannibal, Mo.: Stoney-Sussex, 1903 (a photo album in the collection of the Mark Twain Museum).

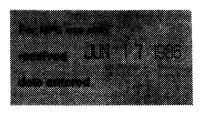
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street & number 623A Broadway		telephone (314)	221-6545
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John Karel, Director & Depotitie Officer, Division of Parks	uty State Historic and Historic Prese	Preservation rvation date	11-29-84
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is inc	luded in the National Regi	i de la	
Keeper of the National Register		date	
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Chief of Registration		date	

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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hannibal Central Business District
Continuation sheet Multiple Resource NominationItem number



Page 1

#### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Hannibal's early economy was based on river trade; flour, pork and other local products were shipped out, while virtually everything else was imported much of it to be sent on to points farther inland. Improved roads and railroads reduced the need for this service, but it survived in part as the wholesale grocery business. Two structures built for that purpose are included in this nomination: Robert Elliott's Wholesale Grocery at 116-122 South Third Street (#74) and Hafner Grocery Warehouse at 101 East Church (#68). The Standard Printing Company at 201 North Third (#63) was a speculative building that served a third wholesale grocery company for some years. Northeast Missouri's farms also produced tobacco in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. 400,000 pounds were sold in Hannibal as early as 1847. This led to the manufacture of cigars. The Holmes-Dakin Building at 120-122 South Main (#67) was unusual in being built as a cigar factory; more typical was the Rendlen-Pappas Building, 103 South Main (#56), a speculative building rented to the Hannibal Cigar Company for almost 40 The Van Every Building at 306-308 Broadway (#40) was occupied after 1908 by the Eichenberger Tobacco Company; 306 was the factory, while 308, which has preserved its interior almost unchanged, was the showroom.

The economy of Hannibal was transformed beginning in the mid-1850's by the construction of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad and by the resulting attractiveness of the city as a lumber center. Rafts of logs from Minnesota and Wisconsin were floated down the river to Hannibal where they were brought up Bear Creek to lumber yards. There they were cut into building materials and shipped to points west and south. In the 1870's more than a dozen lumber companies were operating in Hannibal, all locally owned. wealth these firms produced had to be invested, a task that took on increasing urgency as lumber sources dwindled at the end of the century. This led to the growth of financial institutions. In Mark Twain's day banking had been done over the counters of the general stores on North Main. One storekeeper, Tilden Selmes, had been successful enough in this line to move his banking into a new building at 211 Center Street (#27) in 1858. bank did not survive the war, but the building remains one of the oldest banking structures west of the Mississippi. Of the post-war banks, the Farmers and Merchants, founded in 1870, built two homes in this district, first at 201 North Main (#10) in 1876, second at 212-214 Broadway in 1910. The Hannibal Trust Company, reorganized in 1904 after the end of the lumber era, dwarfed the F & M Bank with its six-story tower built the same year at 226-228 Broadway (#37).

The railroad proved too large an undertaking to finance locally, but two of its early Hannibal backers profitted handsomely. Alfred W. Lamb and Robert Lakenan were law partners; they managed to acquire most of both sides of the 100 block of North Main and part of Broadway, where they were responsible for the initial development in the early 1860's. Numbers 210 Broadway (#32) and 111-113 North Main (#30) survive from that period. A decade later Lamb built the more elaborately ornamented 118-120-122 North Main (#29). Lamb and Lakenan had a counterpart on the south side of Broadway in the person of J. B. Helm, who acquired much property there when the creek made it appear undevelopable. His buildings at 205-211 Broadway (#43, 44, 45, & 46), 105-115 South Main (#57, 58, 59 & 60), and 207-209 South Main (#70 & #71) remain, while his Davidson heirs later built 106 S. Main (#66)

NPS Form 10-900-8 (3-82) OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hannibal Central Business District

Continuation sheet Multiple Resource Nomination tem number



Page 2

As the wave of economic activity receded from North Main Street, it left behind a backwater of taverns and brothels that only dissipated with the growth of tourism after World War II. This was not an aspect of Hannibal's life much spoken of at the time, but today it can be seen as a colorful and even characteristic facet of life in a river city. Five buildings in the 100 block of Bird Street (#15-19) have specific associations with the red-light district, which took its image from a much older designation for the northeast corner of the intersection with Main, the "Wildcat Corner."

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Concurrent with the growth of commerce and industry in Hannibal and to some extent stimulating them was the development of what today is called the infrastructure, the network of services and utilities that keeps the community functioning. The earliest of these was the gas company, organized in 1859 by a group of St. Louis businessmen and purchased in 1864 by its manager John Hock. The original plant that manufactured gas from coal is no longer standing, but the Hock Building (#65), later built for his son-in-law's pipefitting business, is an unusual reminder of that business. The water company was founded in 1879, and J. P. Richards, an attorney and banker who ran the local title company, managed to lure itsoffices and the gas company's too to his modest office building at 208 Center Street (#22).

#### LITERATURE: MARK TWAIN

The construction of the Union Depot promoted a concentration of hotels on South Main. Most of them have disappeared along with the depot itself. The premier hotel of the period, the Park Hotel, burned down in 1899. It had been financed by a group of leading citizens as a civic improvement, and the need for a replacement was soon apparent. It too was financed by leading citizens, many of them lumbermen, and was designed to high standards by Barnett, Haynes and Barnett, a leading St. Louis architectural firm of the period, who had already built Hannibal's High School and Rockcliffe Mansion. The new hotel (#69) was named for Mark Twain, who had last visited Hannibal in 1902. Since he lived until 1910, the hotel may be the earliest of the many buildings throughout the country that have been named for him.

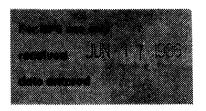
Born in 1935 in Florida, Missouri, Sam Clemens came with his family to Hannibal late in 1839. He remained here until June of 1853, the formative years that he recalled in Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, and Life on the Mississippi. His boyhood home is a National Historic Landmark and the district around it, immediately north of the Main Street District in this nomination, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Throughout his life Sam Clemens kept in touch with Hannibal and he visited on several occasions, last in 1902.

NPS Form 10-900-8 (3-82) OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

### **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hannibal Central Business District
Continuation sheet Multiple Resource Nomination Item number 8



Page 3

Several of the buildings included in this nomination have associations with Mark Twain's early years in Hannibal. The League Building at 125-127 North Main Street was built by William League, one of his childhood friends, while 306 Center Street (#64) was built by the family of his former schoolteacher, Mrs. Horr. Henry Collins New Store (#11) and the Jameson Hawkins Row (#12, 13 & 14) went up on the east side of the 200 block of North Main during Mark Twain's last years in Hannibal, the latter built by the eldest brother of his childhood sweetheart Laura Hawkins (the model for Becky Thatcher) and by the Moffett brothers, one of whom married Mark Twain's sister Pamela.

#### AGRICULTURE: WILLIAM HENRY HATCH

William Henry Hatch (1833-1896) had his law offices in Jameson Hawkins' Row (#12, 13 & 14). Both Hawkins and Hatch were married to daughters of Asa Smith. Jennie Smith Hatch died in 1858 and in 1861 Hatch married seventeen-year-old Thetis Hawkins, the daughter of his former brother-in-law and niece of his first wife. Hatch represented this district in the U. S. Congress from 1878 to 1892. He is credited with originating the legislation that raised the U. S. Department of Agriculture to cabinet-level status. He also authored the Hatch Act, which authorized the creation of agricultural research stations in each of the states. Missouri's station was eventually established at Hatch's own farm, located just outside Hannibal, given for the purpose by his daughter. His house there has since been demolished.

#### EDUCATION:

The Benjamin Horr House, 306 Center Street (#64) is also significant as the earliest surviving building in Hannibal where school was conducted. In the late 1850's it was the "Ladies Select Academy" run by Lizzie Horr, Mrs. Horr's daughter. This was prior to the organization of the public school system, which was not authorized in Missouri until 1851 and didn't get started in Hannibal until after the Civil War.

#### ARCHITECTURE:

The architecture of the central business district ranges from the plain vernacular of the Greek Revival to Art Deco. The dominant style, particularly along Broadway, is Italianate. As is true of most business districts, most storefronts have been remodeled over the years, but a surprising number of virtually original ones survive, including 216-218 North Main (#12), 208 and 210 Center Street (#22 & 23), 205-211 Center Street (#24, 25, 26 & 27), and 306-308 Broadway (#40). Many more retain a substantial proportion of their original storefront elements and could be brought back. Even more unusual are the two virtually unaltered store interiors. The former Eichenberger cigar store at 308 Broadway has already been mentioned. Brown's Drug Store at 219 North Main (#3) was in continuous operation from 1858 to 1979, and it retains its original shelving, cornice, ceiling, and other fixtures.

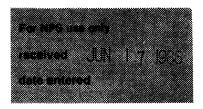
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OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

### **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hannibal Central Business District
Continuation sheetMultiple Resource Nomination Item number 8



Page 4

ARCHITECTURE: continued

The last years of the century brought dark-red pressed brick and Neo-Grec and Richardsonian motifs (segmental arches and corbelled decorations, for example). These were seen in the Sultzman-Albertson Building on Broadway (#35-36) and Robert Elliott's Wholesale Grocery on South Third, (#74) but particularly on South Main, where a dramatic fire on November 25, 1893, cleared much of the 100 block. The Robinson Bros. Store (#61 & 62), the Holmes-Dakin Building (#67), and the smaller Davidson Building (#66) were all built in the aftermath of this fire. The Davidson Building is Hannibal's only example of a Richardsonian Romanesque storefront, complete with rockfaced stonework. A simpler brick Romanesque front is the Koch Building (#19). The new century brought with it the Beaux Arts, ranging from the Ionic portico of the second Farmers and Merchants Bank to the Colonial Revival of the Mark Twain Hotel to the Neoclassical of the Hannibal National Trust. The Andrus-Joseph Building, 209-211 North Main (#6), is also a richly ornamented example of the Beaux Arts.

The later styles of the twentieth century are sparsely represented in downtown Hannibal, which was, after all, already built up. The little store at 103 South Main (#56) was refaced in the 1920's with glazed brick, and the Crescent Jewelry storefronts at 205-207 Broadway are Hannibal's only examples of the Art Deco use of vitrolite. A larger example of Art Deco resulted from a fire in 1930 which destroyed the big department store at 101 North Main (#33). The new Kresge Building was the last architecturally significant building to go up in the district.

#### NOTES:

- 1. Both men have been cited in earlier National Register nominations from Hannibal. Mark Twain's Boyhood Home is a National Historic Landmark. William Henry Hatch is associated with the Old Federal Building, 600 Broadway.
- 2. Hannibal has been the subject of three major histories: R. I. Holcombe, <u>History of Marion County</u>, <u>Missouri</u> (St. Louis: E. F. Perkins, 1883, reprinted with index by the Marion County Historical Society, 1979); C. P. Green, <u>A Mirror of Hannibal</u> (Hannibal: C. P. Greene, 1905); and J. Hurley Hagood and Roberta Hagood, <u>The Story of Hannibal</u> (Hannibal, Mo.: Standard Printing Co., 1976). In addition, much of the analysis embodied in this nomination is derived from an unpublished study by Esley Hamilton, "Hannibal as History" (Hannibal Arts Council, 1982).
- 3. There are two overlapping but not identical Mark Twain Historic Districts, the larger one local, the smaller federal. Maps and ordinances for local districts are included in Esley Hamilton, "Identification and Protection of Historic Resources in Hannibal, Missouri: A Status Report" (Hannibal Arts Council, Feb. 1983).
- 4. The High School has been demolished. Rockcliffe, located at 1000 Bird Street, is listed in the National Register.

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hannibal Central Business District
Continuation sheet Multiple Resource NominationItem number 9

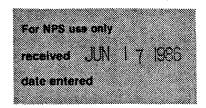
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- 3. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, "The City of Hannibal, Mo." October 25, 1890, pp. 206-207, 214.
- 4. Greene, C. P. A Mirror of Hannibal. Hannibal: C. P. Greene, 1905.
- 5. Hagood, J. Hurley, and Hagood, Roberta. <u>The Story of Hannibal</u>. Hannibal, Mo.: Standard Printing Co., 1976.
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- 8. Hannibal Daily Courier Annual Trade Review, January 15, 1878, and January 15, 1879.
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- 10. Hart & Mapother. <u>City of Hannibal, Marion Co., Missouri</u>. New York: Hart & Mapother, 1854. A map showing lots and buildings.
- 11. Harford, W. M., ed. <u>Souvenir of Hannibal, Mo.</u> Hannibal, Mo. ('manufactured in Portland, Me.''): 1891. An album of drawings made from photographs.
- 12. Holcombe, R. I. <u>History of Marion County, Missouri</u>. St. Louis: E. F. Perkins, 1883. Reprinted with index by the Marion County Historical Society, 1979.
- 13. Jeffries, A. B., "A City of Monuments, Memorials and Noted Men," "Speeches Delivered at Annual Dinner of the State Historical Society, January 21, 1927," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XXI, No. 3 (April 1927), pp. 337-341.
- 14. Larkin, W. L., "The City of Hannibal, Missouri," Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, March 29, 1890, pp. 181-183.
- 15. The Lee Papers, A Saga of Midwestern Journalism, by Colleagues and Associates. Kewaunee, Ill.: Star Courier Press, 1947.
- 16. Portrait and Biographical Record of Marion, Ralls & Pike Counties, Missouri. Chicago: C. O. Owen & Co., 1895. Reprinted with index by Ralls County Book Company, New London, Mo., 1982.

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

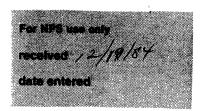
Hannibal Central Business District
Continuation sheet Multiple Resource Nomination Item number



Page 2

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- 18. Van Sant, R. L. <u>Diagram of Hannibal</u>. Hannibal, Mo.: 1875. An early fire insurance atlas of commercial properties.
- 19. Wecter, Dixon. Sam Clemens of Hannibal. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1952.

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page M

Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Name Hannibal Central Business District Multiple Resource Area



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

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